[While dwelling on the subject of the need for a Magistrate's Court, it was suggested that either the Munsiff or the Tahsildar may be invested with magisterial powers. As regards the former, the member himself stated that the Munsiff's hands were full and therefore it would not be advisable to entrust him with criminal work also. In regard to the question of investing the Tahsildars with magisterial powers, the views of the members of the Legislative Council and of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly are conflicting. The former are against the course while some of the latter are in its favour. The Government have accepted the views of the members of the Legislative Council. In the interests of work, it is well that the Tahsildars are not burdened with magisterial work also.

The statements made about the working of the English High School will be referred to the Director of Public Instruction for report.

It has been stated that the Government should not give room for representing the same subject at more than one session of the Assembly. Representations made at the Assembly are enquired into and disposed of with all possible promptitude. But it is found that questions once decided are again pressed at subsequent sessions. It cannot be helped.

The question of opening a Police charging station at Sastankotta will be considered along with the Police reallocation scheme.

The question of construction of a dam across the Anayadi *todu* is under investigation. It will be considered after the investigation is completed.

The proposals regarding the construction of roads and bridges will be referred to the Road Board. But in regard to the opening of a road connecting the Adur, Kayamkulam and the Sastankotta roads, and the conversion of the Kalanjurpadam village road into a cart road, proceedings have been started on the people undertaking to give up the necessary lands free of compensation.]

93. Needs of the Shencotta town.

MR. S. R. SABARIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Shencotta*) spoke on the following needs of the Shencotta town:

Shencotta was the favourite haunt of cholera and other epidemic diseases, on account of the scarcity of good drinking water in the town. The inhabitants of the town had been requesting Government to take steps to secure a steady supply of good water there. But their prayer was not heeded. In Chingleput in the Madras Presidency, water was pumped into a reservoir from the Palar river, with the help of an engine, for being supplied through pipes in important centres in the town. As there was a river near Shencotta, a similar scheme might be devised for the supply of water in that town. Government should appoint an expert in order to investigate the possibility of the scheme. If the scheme turned out to be a failure, steps should be taken for including Shencotta in the proposed protected water supply scheme for the adjoining Tenkasi taluk.

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The Shencotta Municipality had sent up certain resolutions to Government praying for a reconsideration of the terms of the revised draft agreement relating to the acquisition, for the use of the municipality, of the Perumalkulam tank and the adjoining lands. The conditions mentioned in the resolutions should be embodied in the agreement.

There was no uniformity in the weights and measures in use at Shencotta. They should be standardised.

Some toddy and arrack shops were located within the municipal limits in close proximity to places of public resort. One of the arrack shops was located near a public well--one of the best wells in the town-and the taluk office. The shops should be shifted from there.

The non-Brahmin cremation ground, situated outside the limits of the municipality, was not connected by roads with the town. Some lands were acquired by Government for the purpose; but the construction of roads was not taken in hand. The owners of the adjoining lands made encroachments on the lands acquired by Government. A road should be constructed without further delay, after removing the encroachments and acquiring further lands.

There were innumerable mistakes in the last survey of the minor circuit areas in the Shencotta town. Government were bound to have a re-survey conducted at their own cost. But they insisted on the municipality contributing a portion of the expense. The municipality, however, was prepared to bear one-fourth of the entire cost. The re-survey should be conducted by Government on that understanding.

Coir-making, basket-making, weaving and other industries flourished at Shencotta. But the methods were curiously out-of-date and antiquated. An industrial school should be started by Government at Shencotta for imparting instruction on up-to-date methods of manufacture.

Drains should be constructed on both sides of the roads situated within the limits of the municipality. The roads maintained by the Public Works Department stood in need of improvement.

The Shencotta Travellers' bungalow was located in a congested area and on the bank of the Perumalkulam tank. The bungalow should be located near the Railway station, and the existing building should be handed over to the municipality.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Sabariperumal Pillai, as regards your first point *i. e.*, water supply, there is no proposal at present. You suggested two alternative schemes. Government will investigate them.

With regard to your second point, I do not think you are in a position to know all the correspondence. The latest stage of the affair you seem not to be aware of. As the municipality is unable to accept the terms of the agreement, Government have proposed to take up the whole work and revise the agreement; and the municipality will be asked whether they agree to it. No reply has yet been received. That is the stage at which the matter stands.

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The standardisation of measures in Shencotta seems to be rather a complicated affair, so far as I can see from the explanations you were able to give. The Government have taken up that question and called for a report. It has not yet been received.

As for the removal of arrack and toddy shops from within municipal limits, I have replied to similar representations of other members and the same reply applies to you also. As regards the location of the shop near the well, which you say is one of the best wells in the town, I shall call for a report from the Excise Commissioner.

Your point about the opening of a cart road is a matter for the municipality.

MEMBER: It is outside municipal limits.

DEWAN: Then I shall refer it to the Road Board.

MEMBER: Land has already been acquired.

DEWAN; Even then it has to be referred to the Road Board and they will decide whether it is urgent enough and whether it may not be taken up next year or afterwards

Then about your sixth point, the municipality says that it will meet only 25 per cent. of the cost and the Government are saying that it must meet 50 per cent. of the cost. That seems to have been the result arrived at after prolonged correspondence. I do not think I can at present, in any way, modify the final results arrived at.

Then about the starting of an industrial school, that is rather a tall order, because in that case every important town may ask for an industrial school to be run by Government. To a similar representation at a previous session in regard to the starting of a weaving school, the answer given was that Government would be prepared to help by the award of grant any private school that may be started and that is the reply that I have to give to your representation also.

Then in regard to the improvement of the roads maintained by the P. W. D., the Chief Engineer says that the roads which are maintained by his Department are being maintained as well as possible. But I may tell you that the Chief Engineer is rather annoyed that the maintenance of the roads should be entrusted to the P. W. Department when the Shencotta Municipality gets Rs. 4,000 out of tolls. The municipality which takes the revenue from toll ought to spend some money upon roads. I may also tell you that the question as to the maintenance of roads in major municipalities is one that is under the consideration of Government.

The Travellers' Bungalow where it now is cannot be abolished. If the municipality find that a *satram* near the railway station is necessary, they might construct a *satram* or a T. B. there.

We will now rise and meet again tomorrow at 11-30.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-10 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. next day.

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